

# Alaska Procurement Connection

*A Monthly Newsletter From Your Procurement Technical Assistance Centers*

## Track Your Payments with DFAS

Contributed by Mary H. Sheehan (fnmhs@uaf.edu)

As a government contractor, you now have the ability to make inquiries on the web regarding your payments using the same system government contracting offices use to make payment inquiries. Going along with the practice of streamlining, paying offices for the Department of Defense (DoD) have been regionalized. Payment information can now be obtained at the myInvoice site which consolidates the contract data obtained from Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS) Centers for all open contracts.

To access the system you must register first through a one-time registration process that is well worth your time—and money. Prior to registering, ensure that your CCR registration is current. If you have updated your CCR recently, you will need to wait at least three days before attempting to register at the myInvoice site.

Vendors can register and access the myInvoice site at <http://www.dod.mil/dfas>; use Internet Explorer as your web browser. Click on myInvoice (right, bottom of the screen) and accept the security certificate. Next you will need to load the necessary software on to your computer by clicking on JInitiator Download. We recommend that you first print the myInvoice Registration Instructions to use as your guide while registering.

After you have successfully loaded the software, in myInvoice click on to Vendor Registration. It is then a relatively simple process (you will need your CAGE code, DUNS number and Tax/Employer Identification Number, so insure they are available before you start the process. DFAS will notify you within five business days if your registration was successful.

The neat thing about having this access is you, the small business owner, have access to the most current information regarding payments on your government contracts. Therefore, you can track the payment status and you will know early on if there are any “hang-ups” that could hold up your payment.

The paying office for most DoD contracts in Alaska is DFAS Hawaii. However, that is scheduled to change as part of the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure legislation. The plan is to further consolidate paying offices and to close all but a few of the remaining stateside Vendor Pay locations. You don't have to know your paying office to make a payment inquiry, although you should know this information.

If you would like assistance with the DFAS myInvoice registration process, don't hesitate to phone PTAC for help!

**March 2006**

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Check out the PTAC  
Calendar of Events for  
Upcoming Opportunities!

[www.ptacalaska.org](http://www.ptacalaska.org)



### **Anchorage**

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Anchorage, AK 99501  
(907) 274-7232 or (800) 478-7232

### **Fairbanks**

613 Cushman Street, Suite 209  
Fairbanks, AK 99701  
(907) 456-7232 or (800) 478-1701

[www.ptacalaska.org](http://www.ptacalaska.org)

### **A Program of:**



**University of Alaska  
Small Business  
Development Center**

## EC/EDI Corner

Contributed by Mary Wheeler (fnmaw@uaf.edu)

### Doing Business with DESC

The Defense Energy Support Center (DESC) offers “Total Energy Solutions” with a mission “to provide the Department of Defense and other government agencies with comprehensive energy solutions in the most effective and economical manner possible.” To learn more about contracting with DESC, logon to their website at <http://www.desc.dla.mil> and click on the “Doing Business with DESC” link.

### Doing Business with DLA

The Defense Logistics Agency (DLA) is “The Warfighters’ Combat Support Agency” with a mission to “provide worldwide logistics support for the Department of Defense, certain federal agencies, foreign governments, international organizations, and others as authorized.” To learn more about contracting with DLA, logon to their website at <http://www.dla.mil> and click on the “Business Opportunities” link.

## Upcoming Events

### Meet-the-Agency

Learn what is purchased, how it is bought, and where to locate the opportunities.

- Ft. Wainwright, March 1 (Fairbanks)
- University of Alaska, March 7 (Anchorage)
- Fairbanks Correctional Center, March 21 (Fairbanks)

For times, locations and how to register, logon to the PTAC website at <http://www.ptacalaska.org>.

### AUCP Annual Meeting

The ADOT&PF Civil Rights office is holding their annual Alaska Unified Certification Program meeting.

- Fairbanks, March 6
- Anchorage, March 8

For additional information contact Linda Babb at 269-0852.

### 10 Step Approach to Successful Govt Contracting

Cut through the “red tape” by attending this comprehensive workshop designed specifically for small businesses. Our 10-Step approach will help you understand the first steps businesses must take to sell and market to federal, state, and local government agencies.

- Anchorage, March 15
- Fairbanks, March 22

For times, locations and how to register, logon to the PTAC website at <http://www.ptacalaska.org>.

## National Ombudsman Hearings Set for Anchorage in August 2006

Contributed by Mary H. Sheehan (fnmhs@uaf.edu)

The National Ombudsman office currently has a hearing scheduled to take place in Anchorage on August 18, 2006. For up-to-date information, access their website at <http://www.sba.gov/ombudsman> and click on the “Calendar of Events” link.

### • *What is a National Ombudsman and what do they do?*

The National Ombudsman’s primary mission is to assist small business concerns when they experience excessive federal regulatory enforcement actions, such as repetitive audits or investigations, excessive fines, penalties, threats, retaliation or other unfair enforcement action by a federal agency.

### • *How does the process work?*

The National Ombudsman receives comments from small business concerns and acts as a liaison between businesses and federal agencies. Comments received from small businesses, are then forwarded to the federal agency for a high level review and the federal agency is requested to consider the fairness of their enforcement action. A copy of the agency’s response is sent to the small business owner. In some cases, fines have been lowered or eliminated and decisions changed in favor of the small business owner.

### • *How and where to file a comment?*

Comments may be submitted via fax, email, or snail mail, as follows:

Fax: 202-481-4719

Email: Go to [www.sba.gov/ombudsman](http://www.sba.gov/ombudsman)  
Click “File a Complaint or Comment”

Mail: Office of the National Ombudsman  
U.S. Small Business Administration  
409 Third Street, S.W., MC2120  
Washington, D.C. 20416-0005

### • *What should your comment include?*

Comments should include basic documentation to support your comment, such as correspondence, enforcement letters, citations, phone records, or other proof of the agency’s actions.

## Future Budget Funds Innovation

Contributed by Carolyn Pratt (ancap1@uaa.alaska.edu)

President Bush made competitiveness a major theme of his State of the Union address and unveiled his American Competitiveness Initiative in his budget proposal. This means increased focus and funding for future initiatives.

A key portion of the American Competitiveness Initiative calls for major increases over the next ten years in the physical sciences budgets at the Department of Energy's Office of Science, the National Institute of Standards and Technology, and the National Science Foundation (NSF).

This proposal represents good news for anyone interested in tech-based economic development. More funding for research is needed for the U.S. to retain its national leadership in innovation. The proposal, however, is less ambitious than the plan Congress approved in 2002 to double NSF's budget by fiscal year 2008. Under the president's proposal, the doubling will be for "innovation-enabling physical science and engineering research" and will take until FY 2017.

In the area of education, the American Competitiveness Initiative calls for \$412 million in spending on new programs. Yet, at a time when we need to encourage increased college participation, especially among underrepresented groups, the budget proposal calls for freezing the Pell grant program and would eliminate \$303 million for the Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs, which supports early college prep activities for low-income elementary and secondary students. These programs are intended to discourage dropping out and to encourage postsecondary enrollment.

Contact TREND at 274-7232 or email to carolyn@trendalaska.org for additional information. The president's budget request and supporting documents can be found at: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/budget/fy2007/>.

*Robert B. Reich, former secretary of labor under President Bill Clinton was the featured keynote speaker at the Anchorage Economic Development Corporation's 2006 Economic Forecast Luncheon. The three vectors he suggests will impact America the most in the next decade are: globalization, technology, and demographics.*

## Look-up Tool for RFID Now Available

Contributed by Megan Luna (anmcl1@uaa.alaska.edu)

The Office of the Deputy Under Secretary of Defense (OSD) now has a Class of Supply Look-up Tool available. It can be accessed via their website at [http://www.acq.osd.mil/log/rfid/Class\\_of\\_supply\\_lookup\\_tool.htm](http://www.acq.osd.mil/log/rfid/Class_of_supply_lookup_tool.htm).

This tool is provided for Department of Defense (DoD) suppliers who would like to know when they will be required to implement RFID technology on their products.

While the final policy regarding DoD suppliers' required use of RFID technology was issued February of 2004, the DoD has taken a phased approach to its implementation. When a supplier is expected to implement RFID technology depends on the Class of Supply of their product. The Class of Supply categorization is linked to the Federal Supply Classification (FSC) for a given product.

The OSD website not only provides a link to look up the National Stock Number (NSN) for supplies; it also explains how to further break down the NSN and determine the FSC and Class of Supply for your product. Once this is determined, the website provides tables where you can look up the year of RFID implementation for your product. The OSD Look-Up Tool makes finding out when your supply business should implement RFID a pretty straightforward process; however, the final determination of when a commodity is affected by the DoD RFID policy is made by the Contracting Officer.

### Brown Bag: A Look at RFID in Business

March 15, 2006

12:30 PM to 1:30 PM

University Center, Room 143, Anchorage

Learn who is using RFID in Alaska and globally, and various business applications from small to large companies, from seafood to tourism, from ships to airports. Updates on the Wal-Mart and DOD RFID mandate for federal suppliers will be presented. Discussion lead by Dr. Oliver Hedgepeth, Assistant Professor of Logistics and Chair of Logistics Department at UAA. RSVP required. Call TREND at 274-7232 or email to [carolyn@trendalaska.org](mailto:carolyn@trendalaska.org)



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## PTAC Welcomes Robert Brunett!

Contributed by Robert Brunett (anreb2@uaa.alaska.edu)

As a new member to the Anchorage PTAC, I'd like to take just a brief moment to introduce myself.

My name is Robert Brunett. I'm not only new to PTAC, but I'm also new to Alaska. After visiting this great State on vacation in 2004 my wife and I decided this is where we needed to be. And now after a long year of organizing and planning... here we are!

My background includes serving a career in the U.S. Air Force in which I retired in 1995. I spent nine years after that working with Lockheed Martin Aeronautical Systems as the manager of Supplier Quality Engineering responsible for the direct technical oversight of all assigned suppliers in support of the major procurements for six U.S. Department of Defense production programs.

Then, after leaving Lockheed Martin in 2004, I joined the Bell Helicopter, Textron Inc. team in Fort Worth, Texas. There I served as the manager of the Procurement Quality organization responsible for a global supply chain of 2,800 subcontract suppliers in support of eight aircraft production programs delivering to several departments of the U.S. Government.

I look forward to the new opportunities and challenges that await us. I'm excited to finally be here and look forward to meeting and working with all of you.

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## CCR Changes DUNS+4 Process

Contributed by K. Anderson (anksa@uaa.alaska.edu)

Recent changes to the Central Contractor Registration may require revision to your DUNS+4 record if you are using this for your business, CCR detailed recently. DUNS+4 numbers are used to identify different Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) information for the same CCR record at the same physical location. For example, a registrant may have two offices at the same location and need to identify two separate bank accounts.

In keeping with intended use, on January 30, 2006, CCR will require that the information located within your DUNS+4 records match your primary DUNS record. DUNS+4 registrants will only be allowed to input EFT information into their DUNS+4 records. The Point of Contact listed on the primary DUNS number will be responsible for updating and maintaining all affiliated DUNS+4 records registered under the primary DUNS.

After January 30, access and maintenance of all DUNS+4 records will be via the primary DUNS number and TPIN. The TPINs previously assigned to all DUNS+4 records will no longer be valid, but will still maintain their unique CAGE code.

You are encouraged to review your DUNS+4 records to ensure the records match your primary DUNS record in accordance with the new requirements. If you have questions, contact CCR at 888-227-2423.